

WISHA Interim Operations Memorandum
Washington Department of Labor and Industries
#98-5-A
ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER 296-45 (HIGH VOLTAGE)

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WISHA Policy & Technical Services

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Background

The Department of Labor and Industries recently adopted changes to Chapter 296-45 WAC, the Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Standard. The state standard closely follows the comparable federal standard (29 CFR 1910.269), which was the subject of federal OSHA's CPL 2-1.18A, issued September 25, 1997.

This interim memorandum, which will remain in place until more formal guidance can be finalized, provides guidance to WISHA enforcement and consultation staff comparable to that provided by the federal policy.

Policy

1. With the exception of those issues specifically addressed by the guidance below, WISHA staff will follow the direction provided by CPL 2-1.18A, a copy of which has been distributed to all WISHA Safety Compliance and Consultation Supervisors (as well as to all high-voltage inspectors and consultants).
2. Section VIII, "Inspection Resources," (found on page 3 of the CPL) has been replaced by the following guidance: Only designated and qualified "high-voltage" inspectors or consultants are permitted to engage in WISHA activity related to electric power generation, transmission and distribution facilities. Regional supervisors in need of assistance and unable to readily obtain it from other regions should contact the Electrical Utilities and Communications specialist in WISHA Policy & Technical Services for assistance.
3. Section IX, "Conduct of Inspection and CSHO/Employee Safety and Health," (beginning on page 3 of the CPL) is to be supplemented by any applicable guidance from the internal Safety and Health program or the regional safety coordinator.
4. Section XIV, "Construction vs. Maintenance," (beginning on page 9 of the CPL) does not reflect state language and should be considered deleted from the policy.